PRINCESSES & PALACES

Cinderella's Stepsister and the BIG BAD WOLF

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illustrated by

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You think you know the story of Cinderella? Did you know that she really has **three** stepsisters, and that Cinderella herself isn't actually that nice?

The youngest Ugly sister, Gertie, **is** very kind, though she's told she'll have to act mean and bad like the rest of her family if she wants to be allowed to go to the ball. Will Gertie learn to act like a true Ugly in time?

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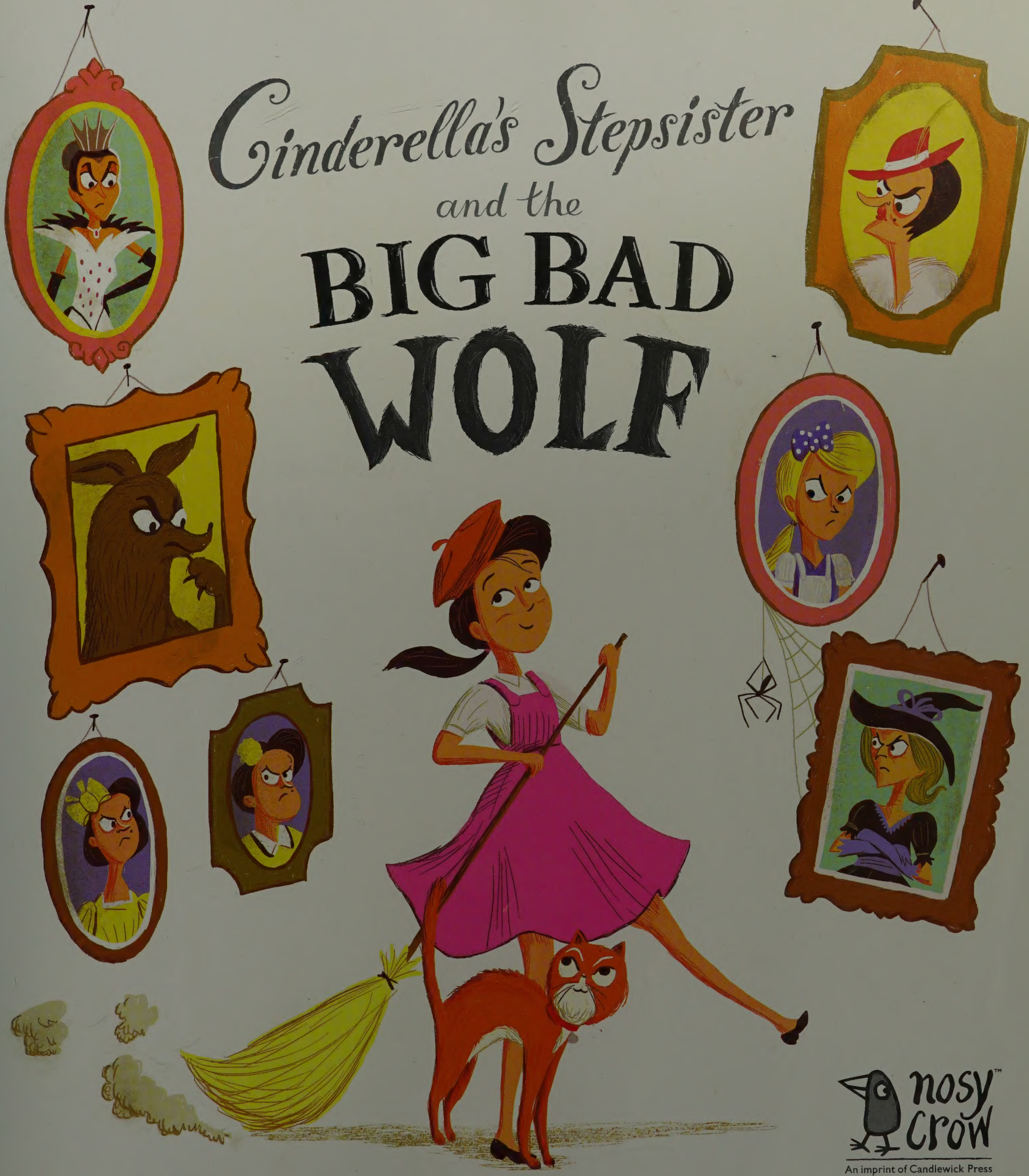
Cinderella's Stepsister and the BIG BAD WOLF



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Here is Cinderella.

Here is her stepmother,

Mrs. Ugly.

Here are the Ugly sisters:

one, two, and . . .

three.

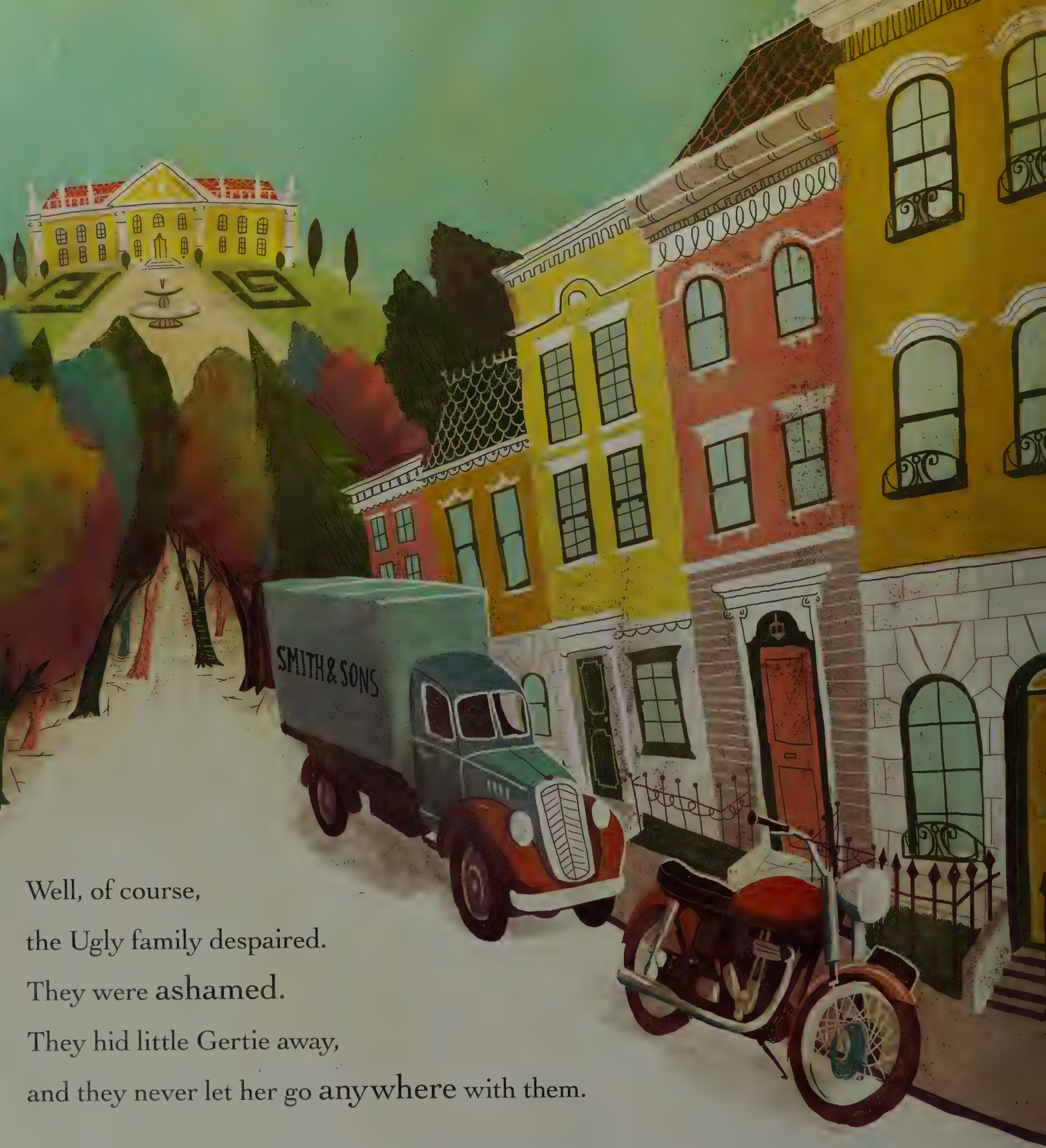
You already know the two Ugly sisters

who were horrible, nasty, and mean.

But Gertie, their little sister, was . . . nice.

While Cinderella lazed about
and did absolutely nothing,
Gertie watered the pumpkins,
took care of the mice, and
did all the housework.

Niceness shone from
Gertie's face, and her smile
was brighter than the sun.



Well, of course,
the Ugly family despaired.
They were ashamed.
They hid little Gertie away,
and they never let her go anywhere with them.

Then, one morning, a special invitation arrived.

UGLY 1

"Oooh, look!"
said Mrs. Ugly.
"We're invited to a
grand ball at the
palace tonight!"

"A ball?" cried Gertie. "Oh, please, can I go?"

"You?" said Mrs. Ugly. "Go to the ball?

You're a disgrace to the Ugly name.

You don't walk Ugly, you don't talk Ugly,

and with that shocking smile on your face,

you don't even look Ugly!"

"But I am an Ugly sister," Gertie said,

"and I can be bad—I know I can!"

"You'll need help,"

said Mrs. Ugly.

"A lesson from the Wicked Queen

should do the trick!"

So that afternoon
Gertie was sent to learn
from the Wicked Queen,
who was just about to visit
Snow White . . . with a poisoned apple.

First the Wicked Queen disguised herself as a little old lady.

Then she knocked on the door.

"Hello, my dear," she said to Snow White.

"Won't you take a bite of this lovely apple?"

"Look out, Snow White!"
Gertie shouted.
"That apple is poisoned!"
"No thanks, then,"
said Snow White.
And she shut the door.

Well, the Wicked Queen was furious
and sent Gertie home faster than a streak of lightning.
Mrs. Ugly was very angry, but Gertie begged
for another chance. "Oh, all right!" said Mrs. Ugly.
"But this time you're going to see the Worst Witch of all. . . ."

"Being bad is easy," said the Worst Witch.

"Let me show you how.

The oven's nice and hot,

and I'm planning a

delicious dinner!

Hansel! Gretel!

Come in, children!"

Gertie tried hard but she just couldn't keep quiet.

"Don't come in!" she yelled.

"The witch is planning to eat

YOU for dinner!"

"In that case, we won't be staying,"
said Hansel and Gretel.
"But we'll take some snacks with us."

Back home, Mrs. Ugly was furious.
"Oh, please!" Gertie wailed. "Please let me go to the ball!
I can be mean and bad like a real Ugly sister. I know I can!"
And she cried so much that Mrs. Ugly
agreed to give her one last chance. But this time,
Gertie was sent to the meanest and nastiest villain of all . . .

the big bad Wolf—

who happened to be wearing a dress!

"So, you wanna be Ugly, huh?"

said the Wolf.

"You wanna be BAD?"

"Oh, I do!" said Gertie.

"I do! I do!"

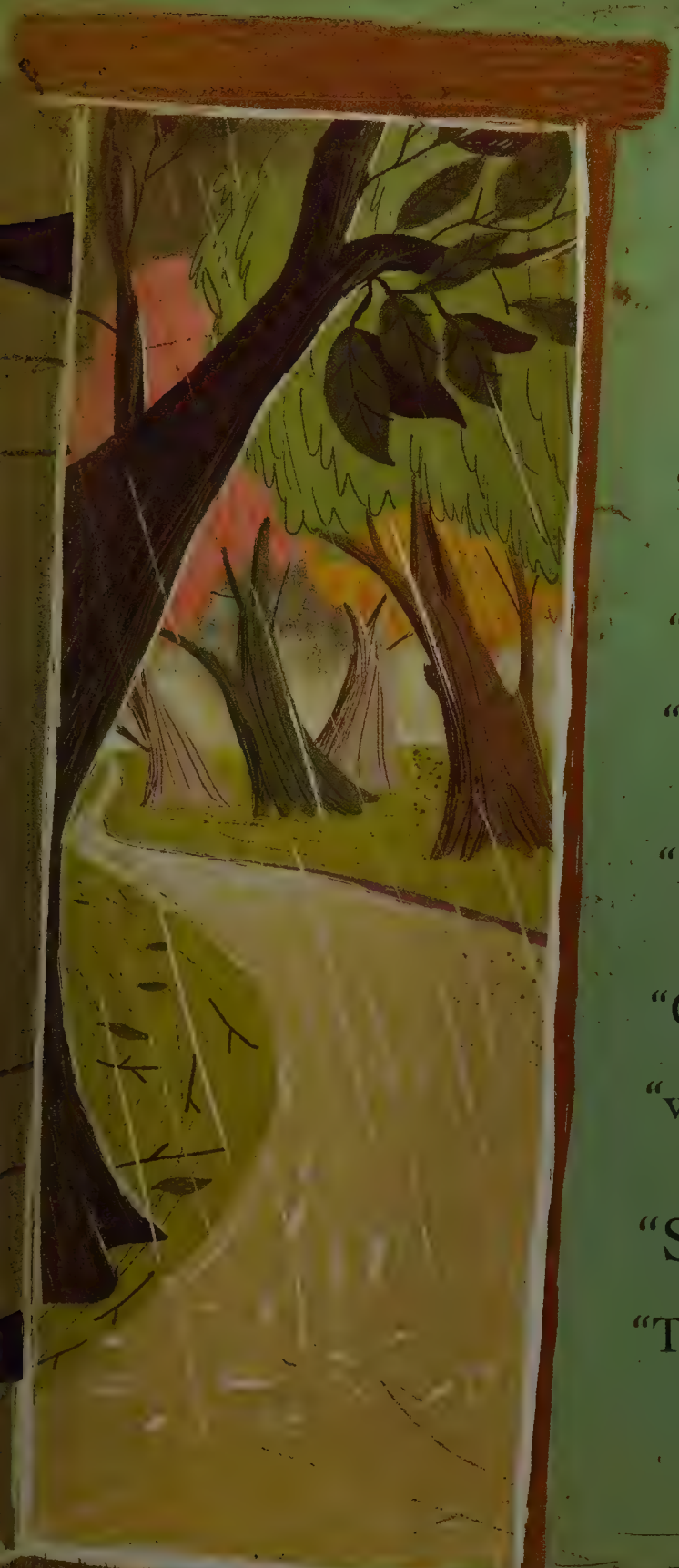
"Well," said the Wolf,

"you're just in time! Watch this!"

Suddenly,

there was a

knock, knock, knock on the door.



Little Red Riding Hood skipped in.

"Oh, Grandma," said Little Red Riding Hood,
"what big eyes you have."

"All the better to see you with," said the Wolf.

"Oh, Grandma," said Little Red Riding Hood,
"what big ears you have."

"All the better to hear you with," said the Wolf.

"Oh, Grandma," said Little Red Riding Hood,
"what big teeth—"

"Stop!" Gertie shouted.
"That's not your grandma, that's . . .

the big bad Wolf!"

And Little Red Riding Hood scampered off.

The Wolf turned to Gertie and drooled.

"Please don't eat me!" said Gertie.
"I've tried so hard to be mean and bad
like the rest of my family so I could go to
the ball, and—"

"Ball?" said the Wolf.
"Did you just say . . . ball?
I've always wanted
to go to a ball!"

"Come on,"
said Gertie.
"Let's see what
we can do!"

By the time Gertie and the Wolf arrived
home, Mrs. Ugly and the two Ugly sisters
had already left for the ball.
"We're too late!" cried Gertie,
when who should appear
but a beautiful fairy!

"I am your Fairy Godmother!"
she said. She looked
at Gertie and the Wolf.
"And I expect you two want
to go to the ball, don't you?"

"Stop!" shouted an angry voice.

It was Cinderella.
"What about me?"
she screeched.
"I've been waiting all night
for a Fairy Godmother
to get me to that ball!"

Well, Fairy Godmothers
do not like bad manners,
so she quickly
turned Cinderella
into a . . .

mouse.

But Gertie and the Wolf went to the ball in beautiful new dresses.

And they had a lovely time.

So lovely, in fact, that Gertie and Prince Charming

fell in love and married soon after.

As for Mrs. Ugly and Gertie's

two Ugly sisters . . .

well, no one quite knows

why, but they were never, ever . . .

seen again.

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Lorraine Carey spent her early years searching for fairies in her backyard and always hoped upon hope that she'd wake up on Christmas morning to find a horse behind the couch. She heads down to the seaside for a paddle whenever she can, even in the winter, when it's rough. She lives in London with her son, Kassius; their cat, Merlin; and an amazingly invincible fish named Bob.

Migy Blanco has worked in advertising and editorial illustration, but while living in Buenos Aires, Argentina, he developed a bold picture-book art style inspired by the vibrancy and color of South America. He recently moved back to England, where, living in the countryside for the first time in his life, he is enjoying nature and exploring new inspirations.

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